

CITY OF ROCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

of the

PORT OF ROCHESTER

1956





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G. PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1956.

I. Staff.

TABLE A.

No change.



II. Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	325	272,994	11	318	1
Coastwise	649	271,150	1	505	-
Total	974	544,144	12	823*	-
*Plus 188 Rivercraft.					

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year.

TABLE C.

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

Number of Passengers INWARDS) Only passenger traffic in Port is day trips
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS) during Summer to adjacent seaside resorts.

(b) CARGO TRAFFIC.

Principal IMPORTS. Wood pulp, timber, china clay, coal, crude oil, flour
wheat, fertilizers, animal feeding stuffs.
Principal EXPORTS. Cement, plasterboard, bitumen, creosote, diesel and
gas oil.

(c) PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Holmsund, Valvi, Kasko, Kotka, Kragero, Arendal, Oslo, Faeker, Hammelvik, Many-
luoto, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Sumdsvald, Quebec, Clark City, Las Pedros, Indian Bay.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

Not applicable to this Port.

V. Water Supply.

1. No change.

2. REPORTS OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION.

26 samples of the Chatham and District water supply, and 28 samples of the
Strood water supply were taken for bacteriological examination. In addition 4

samples of the Strood water supply were taken for chemical analysis.
The results proved them to be good waters.

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIPES.

No change.

6 samples of water were taken from ships' tanks for bacteriological examination, 3 of which were found to be unsatisfactory.

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF WATER BOATS AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE AUTHORITY.

No change.

VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

No change.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

No change.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

No change.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

No change.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR —

- (a) Hospital Accommodation)
- (b) Surveillance) No change.
- (c) Cleansing and disinfection)

VII. Smallpox.

1. HOSPITAL TO WHICH SMALLPOX CASES ARE SENT: —

Long Reach Hospital, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.

2. TRANSPORT OF SMALLPOX CASES TO HOSPITAL.

This is provided by the London County Council Ambulance service. Tel. Waterloo 3311.

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, London.

3. CONSULTANTS AVAILABLE.

Dr. J. P. Marsden)
Dr. W. J. Coughlan) River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford. Tel. Dartford 3231.
Dr. M. Mitman)

4. LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS FACILITIES.

Specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Colindale Avenue, Colindale, London, N.W. 9.

VIII. Venereal Disease.

No change.

IX. Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D.

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of ships concerned
Passengers	Crew			
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	ac. Infectious Polyneuritis	-	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	-	-	-

X. Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian and North American Ports and malaria is not generally met with in the Port of Rochester: there have been no cases during the year.

XI. Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year.

XII. Measures taken against rodents in ships from foreign Ports.

(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

As a routine Deratization or Deratization Exemption Certificates are examined. Further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crews' quarters etc., a general enquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board, some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are a good source of information. The trade in which the vessel has been engaged since her last Deratization, or Deratization Exemption Certificate was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp and pulp wood have little attraction for rats and vessels engaged constantly in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand, a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo, merits further investigation particularly if her rat certificate is some months old. Such cargoes, at present, do not arrive in this Port but occasionally large vessels, which have carried such cargoes, arrive empty to load cement.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS.

There is no rodent operator permanently on Port work but, in all cases where it is deemed necessary, the shore rodent operator is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATIZATION OF SHIPS.

For the issue of International Deratization Certificates, an arrangement exists under Article 4 of the Regulations whereby the local Port Health Inspector carries out the inspection and forwards the report to the London Port Health Authority for issue of the certificate. If it should be necessary to derat a ship by fumigation, the firm employed would be that approved by the London

Authority In other cases of deratting poisons, traps, sulphur and varnish boards are the methods in use. Deratting Exemption Certificates are issued by the Port of Rochester.

When inspecting a vessel for the issue of an International Sanitary Convention Certificate the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, holds and engine room to chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage, specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

(4) RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

There are no vessels other than naval vessels, built in this Port and measures concerning rat-proofing are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage on board vessels in service, and inspecting rat-proofing on the smaller vessels undergoing repair and refit in local repair yards.

A proportion of the rats caught in the vicinity of the river is sent, as a routine, for bacteriological examination.

During the year one riverside rat was submitted for bacteriological examination for plague. No B. Pestis was found.

TABLE E

RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	00
Species not known	00
Sent for examination	00
Infected with Plague	00

TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	17	17

19 Deratting Exemption Certificates issued to British coastwise vessels making occasional trips to continental ports.

6 Rodent Control certificates issued.

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British Vessels 479		41	39 complied
Foreign Vessels 394		20	20 complied
River Craft 188		8	8 complied

XIV. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

No change.

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

No change.

XVI. Miscellaneous.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No change.

RIVER SAMPLES.

Six samples of river water were submitted for bacteriological examination which showed evidence of recent faecal contamination but no pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

CASES OF SICKNESS, ETC.

Injuries

1 Broken finger
1 Head wound
1 Suspected internal injury
following fall down hold
(to hospital for observation)
1 Dislocated thumb
1 Cut arm

Infections

1 Septic throat
1 Polyneuritis
1 Boils
1 Carbuncle
2 V.D.
12 Gastro-enteritis

Diseases of Digestive System

1 Gastritis
1 Colitis
1 Stomach trouble following
stomach operation

Rheumatism

1 Pains in back
1 Rheumatism

FOOD INSPECTION.

124 cargoes of wheat, potatoes, flour, tinned milk and maize were examined and found to be in good condition with the exception of one tin of milk which was damaged and leaking.

MOSQUITOES.

Anti-mosquito measures have continued to be carried out on the local marshes under the direction of the Port Health Inspector. Numerous pools and collections of water have been treated where necessary and practicable. The spraying with D.D.T. has reduced the mosquito nuisance to negligible proportions.

PSITTACOSIS REGULATIONS.

Two vessels arrived with budgerigars on board. A Prohibition of Landing notice was given in each case.

J. O. MURRAY,

Port Medical Officer.

